

Sunday, March 29, 2026
PALM SUNDAY
ORDER OF WORSHIP
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
601 North Cedar, Abilene, Kansas 67410
785-263-2623 — www.abilenefirstumc.org

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME, GOD SIGHTINGS, AND JOYS

Please fill out the insert in today's bulletin to register your attendance and place in the offering plate when it is passed.

***THE CALL TO WORSHIP** (congregation response in **bold**)

The people considered Jesus a special person.

We wonder—why?

The people shouted Hosanna in praise of Jesus.

We want to join in the chorus of hosannas. Tell us why we should shout Hosanna.

***UNISON PRAYER**

In a world of might and control, you speak of children and mustard seeds, vulnerability and risk. Don't you know just where this could lead us? Don't you know where this will lead you? Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE**

*May the Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.***

***GATHERING HYMN**

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

UMH 278

FAMILY TIME (children of all ages are invited to come forward)

CHOIR ANTHEMS

And Can It Be/Were We There

Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 11:1-11 (NRSVA)

When they were approaching Jerusalem, at Bethphage and Bethany, near the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples ² and said to them, 'Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately as you enter it, you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden; untie it and bring it. ³ If anyone says to you, "Why are you doing this?" just say this, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here immediately.'" ⁴ They went away and found a colt tied near a door, outside in the street. As they were untying it, ⁵ some of the bystanders said to them, 'What are you doing, untying the colt?' ⁶ They told them what Jesus had said; and they allowed them to take it. ⁷ Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on it; and he sat on it. ⁸ Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut in the fields. ⁹ Then those who went ahead and those who followed were shouting,

'Hosanna!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

¹⁰ Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David

Hosanna in the highest heaven!

¹¹ Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

The Word of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God

***GLORIA PATRI**

UMH 70

SERMON

What Makes Jesus Unique?

Rev. Libby Themis

RESPONSIVE HYMN

O How He Loves You and Me

FWS 2108

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, as our Lenten journey draws to a close, we confess that so much of our lives are still rooted in the ways of the world. We are quick to be seduced by power, clamoring for an earthly king who can elevate us to a triumphal position of privilege and status over others. Forgive us when we join the fickle crowd who only sing your praises when you meet their selfish expectations. Give us the courage to continue walking with you, boldly shouting "Hosanna" even as the path leads us to the cross. For it is in sharing your suffering and death that we will be raised with you in glory at Easter. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

PRESENTING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***THE DOXOLOGY** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE *Canticle of Prayer (vs. 2)* UMH 406

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***SENDING HYMN** *Blessed Be the Name of the Lord* FWS 2034

*THE BENEDICTION

The gates of righteousness are thrown wide.

Christ has blessed us with life.

The path of salvation is made plain.

Christ has blessed us with truth.

The cornerstone of our faith is sure.

Christ has blessed us with grace.

The gates of righteousness are thrown wide.

*POSTLUDE

PRAYER CONCERNS

Prayer concerns will be listed in the bulletin for 4 weeks unless the church office is notified otherwise.

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Family & Friends of Wes Duey

Mary Suan Snider Whitney

Family & Friends of Carl Hansen

Family & Friends of Melva Rector

Myckie Spencer broke her hip, Rehab at Village Manor, #202

Family & Friends of Rhea Jerrell

Family & Friends of Bonnie Byers

Luke (4 year old great grandson of Lehman's)

Leonard Schmitz (friend of Kent & Diane W., treatment for Acute Myeloid Leukemia)

Al Jones

Jim Leyerzapf

Pam Jackson

Scot Budden (Pastor Libby's brother)

COMMUNITY PRAYER CONCERNS:

Lancie Gantenbein, Steven & Mary Cairns, Mike Jantz, Bob Dishman, Rachel Prichard, Tom Litke, Kathy Ducker, Barbara Webster-Haynes, Nathan Robbins, Deb Daniel, Jamye Comp, Kim Decker, Jacque Havice, Macie Heller.

THOSE WORSHIPING FROM HOME: Norris Marshall, Karen & Steve Crump, Dorothy Veach, Dorothy Snider, Linda Chase, Charles Spidell, Hope Higgins, Jim Leyerzapf, Evelyn Carter, Barb and Carl Funston, Al Jones, Jolene Hunt, Glen & Joan Dawson, Don & Mary Rickley, Phyllis Welton.

THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:

Please contact the office or write the name of your loved one serving on the back of your attendance sheet. Cory Donley, Colby Miller, Evan Middleton, Kayla Lee, Derek Lipson, Daelan McKnight, Patrick Senart

THOSE IN AUTHORITY: The World Leaders, The President, the Governor, the Mayor, County Commissioners, the County Attorney, and other elected officials and the judiciary (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RADIO BROADCAST

Today's broadcast is sponsored by an anonymous member.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Join us as we walk with Jesus through his days before the resurrection on Easter Sunday. Maundy Thursday worship will be at 7 pm. This will be a service remembering the Last Supper. Good Friday worship will be at 7 pm as we remember the death of Jesus on the cross.

EASTER EGG HUNT

There will be an Easter Egg Hunt at 10:15 on Easter Sunday. Children should meet by Wendy's office Rain or Shine!

PALM FRONDS TO CROSSES

Join Velda Becker on Monday, March 30 at 10 am in room 200 to make crosses. Folding palm fronds into crosses after Palm Sunday is a widespread Christian tradition. Blessed palm leaves are woven into small crosses. They symbolize Jesus' victory, the arrival of Holy Week, and the transition from his triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his crucifixion on Good Friday. It reminds us of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

COMMUNITY MEAL

The Community Meal is served the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, at 5:00 p.m., Sterl Hall, 619 N. Rogers. Please contact Jacque Saffell, 785-342-6223 or Toni Schwarting, 785-479-6353 with questions or to volunteer.

EASTER LILIES

There are 2 Easter Lilies left for purchase in the office, \$8.00 each, for Easter Sunday. Please call (785) 263-2623, to reserve yours. You are also welcome to bring your own. Please let the office know if you would like to have it be in Honor or Memory of someone. The information needs to be to the church office by Monday, March 30th to be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

LENTEN LUNCH & LEARN

Our next Lunch and Learn is Thursday, April 2 from noon to one in room 200. Each week we will discuss questions related to the previous Sunday's sermon question. "Study Guides are available on the entry table in the Narthex for your own use or if you plan to join us for the study.

AUBURN MEDICINE LIDS AND BEST CHOICE LABELS

The Questors Sunday School class continues to collect Best Choice labels and Auburn Medicine lids to raise money. You can bring your donations to the office any time during regular hours or on Sunday mornings.

2026 SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships for high school and post secondary students are available on the church website. abilenefirstumc.org This application must be completed in full and submitted to the church office by 12 Noon or the AHS Counselors' office by 5 p.m., Monday, April 13, 2026, to be eligible for consideration.

COOKIES/BREAD FOR SUNDAY MORNING

We are so thankful for the HUGE amount of donations over the past week! We are always in need of cookie/treat donations for Sunday mornings and bread for our visitors. Please bring donations to the office on Sunday mornings or during office hours M-Th 8-12. Thank you for your generosity!

WE ARE ON THE RADIO AND STREAMING ONLINE

If you can't make it to church, but would like to listen to our service live, simply tune into KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM at 10:30 a.m. You can also stream the worship service at abilenefirstumc.org.

OFFERING Needed each Sunday - \$ 5870.81 Last Sunday - \$1378.00



CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 PALM SUNDAY

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Class
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM

MONDAY, MARCH 30 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Group - 208
- 10:00 a.m. Palms to Crosses - 200
- 5:30 p.m. Core Meeting - 204
- 6:30 p.m. Women's AA/NA Meeting - B9

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Wes Duey Funeral

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting - Office
- 3:30 p.m. Power & Light - Peatling Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Missions & Outreach Committee - 200
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group - Peatling Hall
- 6:15 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice - Sanctuary

THURSDAY, APRIL 2 OFFICE HOURS 8-12 NOON

- 9:30 a.m. EOTT Guild Hospice Committee - Peatling Hall
- 12:00 p.m. Lenten Lunch & Learn - 200
- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

FRIDAY, APRIL 3 OFFICE CLOSED

Happy Birthday Addison Duey!

- 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Service

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

- 10:00 a.m. Carl Hansen Funeral

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 EASTER SUNDAY

Happy Birthday Treena Dunham & Gail Rodda!

- 8:15 a.m. In-Person Worship Service
- 9:20 a.m. Small Groups & Sunday School Class
- 10:15 a.m. Children's Egg Hunt - Wendy's office
- 10:30 a.m. In-Person Worship Service / KABI 1560 AM or 95.9 FM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Please note that **bold type** indicates congregational participation. An asterisk (*) indicates that you are invited to stand as you are able. "UMH" stands for *The United Methodist Hymnal* (blue book); "FWS" stands for *The Faith We Sing* (black book); and "WS" stands for *Worship and Song* (green book).

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Vision: A church of Open Hearts, Open Minds, and Open Doors.

ASSISTING IN TODAY'S WORSHIP

Piano: Angie Hoerner

Liturgists: Kevin Bailey & Jill Lang

Slides/Sound/Livestream: Linda Kolacny & Cecilia Clemence

Gospeltality Greeters 8:15: TBD

10:30: Kent & Diane Wyatt

FIRST UMC STAFF

Libby Themis, Pastor

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Darrol Dunham, Director of Maintaining the Church

Cecilia Clemence, Treasurer

treasurer@abilenefirstumc.org

Pam Jackson, Parish Visitor Emeritus